

Minutes of a meeting of Casterton Parish Council held at Casterton Village Hall on Thursday 14th November 2024 at 7.30pm.

Present were Councillors Ken Humphris (Chairman), Stephen Evans, and Steve Richmond, Westmorland & Furness Councillor Hazel Hodgson, three members of the public and Parish Clerk Kevin Price.

24/71 Public participation: None.

24/72 Requests for Dispensations: None.

24/73 Declarations of Interest:

There were no Declarations of Interest made in respect of any matters on the agenda.

24/74 Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2024, having been circulated were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

24/75 Co-option to the Parish Council:

It was resolved to co-opt Rob Leese to the Parish Council. He had applied, under the new co-options policy and had been interviewed prior to the meeting. He then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and the Chairman welcome him to the meeting.

24/76 Updates/Councillor announcements:

Jim Yeomans of Sustrans had been invited to attend this meeting, to give an update on the proposals for the Greenway passing through Casterton, but he was not available. The Council will keep in touch with him.

24/77 Finance:

a. It was resolved to pay the following accounts:

T Flitcroft	£90.00	Payroll administration – annual payment
RBL	£50.00	Remembrance wreath and donation.
Kirkby Lonsdale Town Council		
	£9.03	Share of ZOOM licence for one year
K M Price	£145.01	Quarterly expenses to 30 th
		September, including use of home office and travel.

b. The cash and budget statements were noted.

- c. The Budget Report was considered and it was resolved to make a Precept upon Westmorland & Furness Council for the financial year 2025-26 in the sum of £10,863. There is therefore no increase in the parish element of the Council Tax.
- d. The nationally agreed Pay Award for 2025-26 was noted and adopted. This equates to around a 3.9% increase in Clerk's salaries. The Clerk at Casterton is currently employed for six hours per week on Salary Point 21.
- e. In view of the problems experienced with the Cumberland Building Society earlier in the year, it was resolved:
 - i. Establish whether a single signatory can cancel a valid cheque
 - ii. Advise the Cumberland that this Council is considering an official complaint
 - iii. Arrange a meeting where they would be represented by someone in authority, capable of making decisions.
 - iv. Depending on the outcome of the above, an official complaint may then be made.

24/78 Planning:

The following application was considered and approval was recommended:

S/05/69 Householder planning permission for erection of double garage at North Heads, Casterton.

24/79 Website:

Sally Hodge had placed a brief update on the Council's website. The Council is most grateful for all this work.

24/80 Dog fouling:

An additional bin has been placed at the Colliers Lane crossroads, but suggested sites have been ruled out.

24/81 Resilience Plan:

The Council had been asked to confirm the names of the Lead/Deputy Lead for any Resilience Plan adopted. Councillor Hodgson will send the Council some guidance on Resilience Plans and this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

24/82 Feedback from Community Trust meeting:

- a. Councillor Richmond submitted a report on his attendance at the recent meeting of Casterton Community Trust
- b. The Christmas Tree event, supported by the Trust, on 4th December, was agreed.

24/83 Casterton Community Hub Limited:

A planning application for the Pheasant is currently being considered by YDNP and the Parish Council has objected to it, together with 60 other objections. The date for a decision to be made has not yet been fixed but it is likely to be in January. It was resolved that Councillor Humphris can address the planning meeting on behalf of the Parish Council and the draft for this was approved.

24/84 Footpaths Officer:

Councillor Evans has identified the land agent acting for the landowner of the proposed new "permissive" path, and it is believed that there are minimal costs for this. Steve Hastie said YDNPA would generally support such initiatives from the community

Guidance with a map showing alternative walking routes between Casterton and Devil's Bridge had been produced and it was resolved that initially 250 of these would be printed at a cost of around £55 plus about £25 for 'holders'. These maps would be offered to local businesses, and Kirkby Lonsdale TIC. It is hoped to put a clear sign near Devil's Bridge indicating the safe routes to Casterton and High Casterton

24/85 Maintenance of Village Green:

Some basic maintenance/pruning is required and comments have been received from residents that the Green requires attention. A local gardener has agreed in principle to carry out basic maintenance work on the village green next year, and an initial inspection with some residents will identify the work that needs attention.

24/86 Reported issue at Wandales Lane/Gateshead Brow junction:

A resident had reported fly-tipping at Wandales Lane/Gateheads Brow junction to Westmorland & Furness Council, but none was found. Tarmac had been deposited there and rolled flat, potentially encouraging drivers to cut the corner which could present a collision hazard. At the request of this Parish Council, Cumbria Highways inspected the junction, and declared no action required/

24/87 Community Strategy/Development Plan:

Councillor Richmond presented a full paper on this issue, which had been also circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. This will also be appended to these minutes in the file.

This is intended as an update to the last Parish Plan of 2013, and will cover a five-year period from 2030 to 2031. Residents will be involved, too, and it is intended to 'launch' the Plan in January 2025.

It is hoped to establish a team of five or six Councillors and residents, ready to start work in January". There was strong support for this initiative.

24/88 Maintenance of the War Memorial:

The Council has been informed that the War Memorial is owned by the Diocese of Carlisle, as part of Holy Trinity Church, but the maintenance is the joint responsibility of the District Church Council and Casterton Parish Council.

24/89 Reports:

Councillor Hodgson assisted the Council with ongoing matters on the agenda and also mentioned a number of bodies she serves on and the future plans of Westmorland & Furness Council.

24/90 Correspondence:

Any correspondence received has either been circulated to Councillors at the time or dealt with by the Clerk.

24/91 Date of the next meeting:

***Wednesday 22nd January 2025 at 7pm at Casterton Village Hall.
(Please the earlier starting time)***

24/92 Agenda items for the next meeting:

- a. Calendar of meetings for 2025
- b. Resilience Plan
- c. Asset register - to assemble a definitive list of the Council's assets by June 2025

Any other agenda items may be sent to the Clerk no later than 15th January 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

Signed:

Dated:

Casterton Parish Council Meeting – 14th November 2024.

Agenda item 17 – Community strategy / development plan

Agenda paper prepared by: Councillor Richmond

1. Background / Discussion

The purpose of this paper is to propose that the Parish Council establish a team to review and refresh the Parish Plan. The plan was last updated and published in 2013.

Since the publication of the plan much has changed across society as a whole and within the Casterton community. It is therefore proposed that we (the Parish Council) establish a team of councillors and residents to undertake a consultation process with a diverse range of stakeholders. The information obtained should then be used to develop a new plan which will provide strategic direction (for the next 5 years) and a framework of projects to deliver an improved experience for residents whilst ensuring the long-term viability of the parish.

2. Proposed approach (for discussion with councillors)

Step / Action	When	Who
Obtain support for the proposal.	14 th Nov PC meeting	S Richmond
Establish a team (3 councillors & 3 residents)	End 2024	S Richmond / K Humphris
Meeting of team to design approach and complete initial PEST (strategic tool for organisations to identify and assess how Political, Economic, Social & Technological factors may impact them).	<u>Jan 2025</u>	S Richmond to lead with Team
- Design questionnaire - Identify stakeholders to be approached - Agree technique to circulating questionnaire and recording feedback.	Fab / Mar 2025	S Richmond to lead with Team
Analysis feedback from questionnaire / stakeholders	May 2025	S Richmond to lead with Team
Develop a draft of the Parish Plan for presentation & discussion with PC.	June / July 2025	S Richmond to lead with Team
Present proposed plan to residents and collect further feedback	July / Aug 2025	Parish Council
Finalise and publish plan	September 2025	S Richmond to lead with Team
Ongoing review and update of plan	Ongoing cycle	Parish Council

3. Decisions required at PC on 14th November 2024

- Do the members of the PC support updating the Parish Plan and the proposed approach (with any builds discussed during the meeting)?
- Nominations for two more Parish Councillors to join the team.
- Agreed approach and support to identify residents willing to join the team.

Steve Richmond – 12th November 2024